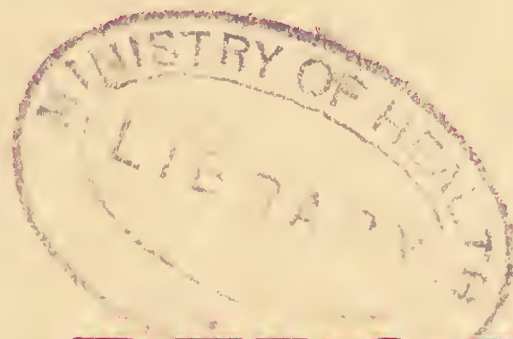




**BOROUGH OF  
KIDDERMINSTER**



**ANNUAL REPORT**

ON THE WORK OF THE

**PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT**

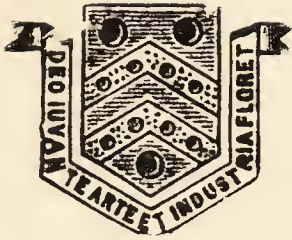
FOR THE YEAR

**1952**

COLIN STARKIE, M.D., M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.P.H., B.Sc.,  
*(Medical Officer of Health)*

G. A. NORTH, M.B.E., M.S.I.A., C.R.San.I., M.Inst.P.C.,  
*(Chief Sanitary Inspector)*





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# PUBLIC HEALTH COMMITTEE

1952—1953

---

*Chairman* ... .. Councillor W. P. HILL

*Vice-Chairman* ... .. Councillor H. G. PARKER

HIS WORSHIP THE MAYOR  
(Councillor A. H. Dudley).

Alderman D. SAMUEL                      Councillor W. A. MUMFORD

„ S. K. CATTELL                      „ R. OAKLEY

Councillor W. S. CARTER                      „ H. B. PRESTON

„ Mrs. R. CHAMBERLAIN                      „ G. WASE

„ W. H. MICKLEWRIGHT                      „ R. A. WOODWARD

## PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICERS OF THE BOROUGH

*Medical Officer of Health :*

COLIN STARKIE, M.D., M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.P.H., B.Sc.

*Public Analyst :*

M. M. LOVE, F.R.I.C.

*Chief Sanitary Inspector and Food and Drugs Inspector :*

G. A. NORTH, M.B.E., M.S.I.A., C.R.San.I., M.Inst.P.C.  
(Cert. Meat and Foods Inspector).

*Deputy Chief Sanitary Inspector and Food and Drugs Inspector :*

J. B. HINTON, Cert. S.I.B., A.R.San.I., M.S.I.A.  
(Cert. Meat and Foods Inspector).

*Sanitary Inspectors :*

J. WHITTINGSLOW, Cert.S.I.B., A.R.San.I., M.S.I.A.  
(Cert. Meat and Foods Inspector).

R. J. LEWIS, Cert. S.I.B., A.R.San.I., M.S.I.A.  
(Cert. Meat and Foods Inspector).

## SUMMARY OF STATISTICS FOR 1952 and 1951.

	1952	1951
Area of district in Acres ... ..	4694	4694
Population at Census, 1951 ... ..	37423	37423
Estimated Population (mid-year) for Birth Rate and Death Rate ... ..	37700	37390
No. of Inhabited Houses, estimated ...	10959	10750
No. of Persons per House ... ..	3.44	3.48
Rateable Value ... ..	£204992	£198177
Sum Represented by Penny Rate ... ..	£807	£793
Number of Marriages ... ..	349	400
Number of Live Births ... ..	661	645
Number of Still Births ... ..	13	30
Birth Rate (Live and Still) (corrected) ...	17.62	18.25
Birth Rate for England and Wales (Live and Still) ... ..	22.6	15.86
Number of Illegitimate Births ... ..	38	42
No. of Deaths under one year of age ...	28	26
Of these there were Illegitimate ... ..	5	2
<b>Infantile Mortality per 1,000 Births</b> ...	42.3	40.3
Infantile Mortality for England and Wales	27.6	29.6
Maternal Mortality Rate, England and Wales ... ..	0.72	0.79
Maternal Mortality Rate (per 1,000 total births) ... ..	Nil	Nil
Number of Deaths ... ..	413	512
<b>Death Rate</b> (corrected) ... ..	10.84	13.61
Death Rate for England and Wales ...	11.3	12.5
Percentage of total Deaths occurring in Public Institutions ... ..	86.19	31.02
No. of Deaths from all forms of Tuberculosis ... ..	8	9
No. of Deaths from Cancer ... ..	60	72
No. of Deaths from Influenza ... ..	1	29
No. of Deaths from Measles ... ..	Nil	Nil
No. of Deaths from Whooping Cough ...	Nil	1
Rainfall in inches ... ..	22.58	32.57

Year	Births	Deaths	Births over Deaths increase
1943 ... ..	681	430	251
1944 ... ..	730	418	312
1945 ... ..	715	424	291
1946 ... ..	749	396	353
1947 ... ..	800	453	347
1948 ... ..	730	383	347
1949 ... ..	702	471	231
1950 ... ..	597	461	136
1951 ... ..	645	515	130
1952 ... ..	674	413	261



# Annual Report of the Medical Officer of Health

FOR THE YEAR 1952.

---

*Town Hall*

*Kidderminster.*

*To the Chairman and Members of the*  
HEALTH COMMITTEE.

Mr. Chairman,

In introducing this report I feel the historical events of our time must be mentioned, since they are relevant to a full appreciation of our state.

Early in the year we were all grieved by the death of our much loved King, George VI, who was succeeded by his daughter, Princess Elizabeth.

The world has remained divided ideologically into two groups, viz: the Russian dominated section and the "rest," a condition made sharply clear in Europe by the political barrier called the "Iron Curtain."

War has continued unabated in Korea, Malaya, Indo-China, and against the "Mau Mau" in Africa.

This country has had to continue an immense defence programme which has absorbed man-power, materials, mental effort and time. Although the cost of living has continued to increase, there has been very little unemployment and the general standard of living has remained high.

Television sets are established in thousands of households, a very powerful influence for good or evil.

The first experimental British atom bomb has been exploded.

Many foods have remained rationed, e.g., bacon, butter, eggs, cheese, meat, fats, sugar and tea.

On the credit side more supplies of nylon have been available, and more important synthetic fibres such as "terylene," have been discovered. New discoveries have been made in the manufacture of antibiotics and other medical preparations both for the prevention and treatment of disease.

I have only indicated the background of events against which the Public Health of Kidderminster is recorded, but it suffices to remind us how much these events affect the material and mental existence of us all.

This report deals with many aspects of public health, but at best it is only a framework which the knowledge and understanding of the reader must fill in, if he would obtain a full appreciation of the department's work.

### CONCLUSION

A brief summary of the Borough's health shows :

General Health	...	...	Good
Epidemics	...	...	Nil
Birth Rate	...	...	Stationary
Death Rate	...	...	Decreased
Infant Death Rate	...	...	Increased
Maternal Mortality	...	...	Nil
Nutrition of babies and children	...	...	Good

#### **Housing.**

Once more in this report the necessity of building many more houses as quickly as possible cannot be too strongly urged.

#### **Maternity Service.**

There are still many mothers-to-be who cannot enter Maternity Homes because of insufficient accommodation.

#### **Food.**

There is still a great need for more knowledge of and better practice in the clean handling of food.

#### **Atmospheric Pollution.**

Kidderminster has about 40 factory and 11,000 domestic chimneys all capable of fouling the atmosphere. Such a concentration of chimneys needs the most efficient methods available to prevent gross atmospheric pollution with all the serious evils this brings.

My thanks are gratefully given to the Chairman and members of the Health Committee for their encouragement and support throughout the year, and also to the staff at the Health Department for their unfailing work and ever loyal and willing co-operation.

I am,

Your obedient servant,

COLIN STARKIE,

*Medical Officer of Health.*

## NUMBER OF DEATHS FROM EACH DISEASE AND SEX

Cause of Death					Male	Female
1.—Tuberculosis of Respiratory System	...				6	1
2.—Other forms of Tuberculosis	...				Nil	1
3.—Syphilitic Diseases	...	...	...	...	1	Nil
4.—Diphtheria	...	...	...	...	Nil	Nil
5.—Whooping Cough	...	...	...	...	Nil	Nil
6.—Meningococcal Infections	...	...	...	...	Nil	Nil
7.—Acute Poliomyelitis	...	...	...	...	Nil	Nil
8.—Measles	...	...	...	...	Nil	Nil
9.—Other infective and parasitic diseases	...				Nil	Nil
10.—Malignant Neoplasm. Stomach	...				5	3
11.—„ „ Lung, Bronchus	...				2	3
12.—„ „ Breast	...				Nil	7
13.—„ „ Uterus	...				Nil	7
14.—Other Malignant and Lymphatic Neoplasms	...	...	...	...	17	16
15.—Leukaemia, Aleukaemia	...	...	...	...	1	Nil
16.—Diabetes	...	...	...	...	1	1
17.—Vascular Lesions of Nervous System	...				22	37
18.—Coronary Disease Angina	...	...			35	15
19.—Hypertension with Heart Disease	...				2	2
20.—Other Heart Diseases	...	...	...	...	38	38
21.—Other Circulatory Diseases	...				10	6
22.—Influenza	...	...	...	...	Nil	1
23.—Pneumonia	...	...	...	...	9	12
24.—Bronchitis	...	...	...	...	13	8
25.—Other Diseases of Respiratory System	...				1	Nil
26.—Ulcer of Stomach and Duodenum	...				7	1
27.—Gastritis and Diarrhoea	...	...	...	...	Nil	Nil
28.—Nephritis and Nephrosis	...	...	...	...	2	8
29.—Hyperplasia of Prostate	...	...	...	...	2	Nil
30.—Pregnancy, Child Birth, Abortion	...				Nil	Nil
31.—Congenital Malformations	...				4	2
32.—Other Defined and ill-defined Diseases	...				34	17
33.—Motor Vehicle Accidents	...	...	...	...	3	1
34.—All other accidents	...	...	...	...	4	5
35.—Suicide	...	...	...	...	Nil	2
36.—Homicide and Operations of War	...				Nil	Nil
TOTAL					219	194



The ages at which deaths have taken place during 1952 are as follows :—

Under 1 year	...	...	28
Between 1 and 2 years	...	...	Nil
Between 2 and 5 years	...	...	1
Between 5 and 15 years	...	...	1
Between 15 and 25 years		...	5
Between 25 and 45 years		...	16
Between 45 and 65 years		...	87
65 years and upwards	...	...	275
			<hr/>
			413
			<hr/>

### **Deaths in Public Institutions.**

In previous years deaths occurring in institutions and hospitals were referred to the district where the deceased had lived previous to entry into the institution.

During the year 1952, and henceforth, deaths occurring in institutions for the aged and chronic sick will be shown as occurring in the district where these institutions are built. Thus 211 deaths occurred in Blakebrook County Hospital and 145 in other hospitals or public institutions which is 86 % of the total deaths in the Borough.

## **GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES IN THE BOROUGH.**

The Public Health Officers of the Authority are listed on the first page of this Report for convenient reference.

### *Laboratory Service.*

The standing arrangements with the County Analyst have remained in force. The Public Health Laboratory, Worcester, is available for examination of medical specimens.

The Medical Practitioners of the Borough have also used the laboratory at the General Hospital. Specimens for examination have been referred through an Honorary Physician in the Out-Patients Dept.

### *Ambulance Facilities.*

The Ambulance Service controlled by the Worcestershire County Council has its Divisional Headquarters in Castle Road, Kidderminster, whence six vehicles and crews operate in the Kidderminster Area.

### *Nursing in the Home.*

The Kidderminster Nursing Association continued to provide District Nurses as well as District Midwives in the Borough.

The Home and Domestic Help service which commenced in 1947 continued to function, organised by the Women's Voluntary Service under the supervision of the Worcestershire County Council.

### Clinics and Treatment Centres.

Name	Situation and Time of Session.	Provided by
Maternity and Child Welfare Centres	(1) St. Oswald's, Monday 2-4 p.m. (2) Sutton Park, Monday 2-4 p.m. (3) Franche Clinic, Tuesday 2-4 p.m. (4) Families Camp, Tuesday 2-4 p.m. (5) Coventry Street, Thursday 2-4 p.m.	County Council
Tuberculosis	Kidderminster General Hospital, Thurs. 2-4 p.m. and at 6.30 p.m. Tues.	Regional Hospital Board
Venereal	Kidderminster General Hospital, Monday 2.0 p.m. Thursday 5.0 p.m.	Regional Hospital Board
Ante-Natal	Monday Session at Coventry Street Clinic 2-4 p.m. Friday Session at Stanmore Nurses' Home 2-4 p.m.	County Council
Consultative Ante-Natal Clinic	Kidderminster General Hospital, Weekly, Wednesday 11 a.m.	Regional Hospital Board
Family Planning Clinic	Coventry Street Clinic, Wednesday 2-4 p.m.	Family Planning Assoc.

#### Maternity and Child Welfare.

LIVE BIRTHS :			<i>Male</i>	<i>Female</i>	<i>Total</i>
Legitimate ... ..			345	278	623
Illegitimate ... ..			29	9	38
STILL BIRTHS :					
Legitimate ... ..			5	7	12
Illegitimate ... ..			1	—	1

INFANT MORTALITY RATE 42.3 per 1,000 live births.

MATERNAL MORTALITY, Nil.

#### Infant Welfare Centres.

The five Infant Welfare Centres situated at Coventry Street, Broadwaters, Birchen Coppice, Foley Park and Franche, have continued to provide adequate facilities for infant welfare work in all areas of the town.

The attendances at the various clinics were as follows :

<i>Clinic</i>	<i>Total Attendance</i>
Franche ... ..	1,058
St. Oswald's ... ..	1,389
Foley Park ... ..	1,916
Coventry Street ... ..	2,790
Families Camp ... ..	1,294
Ante-Natal. (137 Sessions) ... ..	1,771
Total Attendances at Clinics ... ..	10,218
Sewing Class ... ..	892



The work of the Health Visitors is summarised in the Table below :—

Visit to babies: First	...	...	...	...	...	749
Subsequent	...	...	...	...	...	1,932
Visits to Children over 1 year	...	...	...	...	...	4,331
Special cases ...	...	...	...	...	...	311
Diphtheria Immunisation—completed	...	...	...	...	...	453

### Infant Deaths.

In 1952 there were 28 infants died before reaching the age of one year. This gives an Infant Mortality Rate of 42.3 per 1,000 live births and compares very unfavourably with the Infant Mortality Rate for England and Wales of 27.6 per 1,000 live births.

The deaths of the 28 infants were assigned to the following causes :

<i>Cause of Death</i>	<i>Number Died</i>
Prematurity ... ..	10
Congenital deformity ... ..	7
Pneumonia ... ..	4
Other Infections ... ..	2
Atelectasis ... ..	2
Other conditions ... ..	3

Congenital causes including Prematurity and deformity accounted for 17 deaths.

Twenty-one babies died before they were 4 weeks old. Twenty-two babies died in hospital or maternity homes. No connection was established between insanitary housing and infant deaths.

The seasonal occurrence of deaths was again marked with 17 deaths during the first half of the year and 11 during the second half.

At the time of year when respiratory infections were most prevalent there were most infant deaths, but only 6 out of 28 deaths were ascribed to infections.

There has not been a satisfactory answer to the question “Why has such a large proportion of infant deaths ascribed to congenital causes occurred during the Winter and Spring seasons?”

There is obviously need for still greater care during the ante-natal and post-natal periods of mother and child if we would save the lives of many more babies in their earliest days.

# Prescribed particulars on the Administration of the Factories Act, 1937

## PART 1 OF THE ACT

1.—INSPECTIONS for purposes of provisions as to health (including inspections made by Sanitary Inspectors).

Premises (1)	M/c line No. (2)	Number on Register (3)	Number of			M/c line No. (7)
			Inspection (4)	Written notices (5)	Occupiers prosecuted (6)	
(i) Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities...	1	23	10	—	Nil	1
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority ...	2	173	19	—	Nil	2
(iii) Other Premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority — (excluding out-workers premises) ...	3	—	—	—	—	3
TOTAL ... ..		196	29	—	—	

## 2.—CASES IN WHICH DEFECTS WERE FOUND.

(If defects are discovered at the premises on two, three or more separate occasions, they should be reckoned as two, three or more “cases.”)

Particulars  (1)	M/c line No.  (2)	Number of cases in which defects were found				Number of cases which prosecutions were instituted  (7)	M/c line No.  (8)
		Found  (3)	Remedied  (4)	Referred To H.M. By H.M. Inspector Inspector (5) (6)			
Want of cleanliness (S.1.)	4	—	—	—	—	—	4
Overcrowding (S.2) ...	5	—	—	—	—	—	5
Unreasonable temperature (S.3) ...	6	—	—	—	—	—	6
Inadequate ventilation (S.4) ...	7	—	—	—	—	—	7
Ineffective drainage of floors (S.6) ...	8	—	—	—	—	—	8
Sanitary Conveniences (S.7) ...							
(a) insufficient ...	9	2	2	—	1	—	9
(b) Unsuitable or defective ...	10	8	8	—	6	—	10
(c) Not separate for sexes ...	11	1	1	1	1	—	11
Other offences against the Act (not including offences relating to Outwork) ...	12	1	1	—	1	—	12
TOTAL ...		12	12	—	9	—	



### Hospitals.

Since 5th July, 1948, the Hospitals and Maternity Home and other Institutions have been administered by the Regional Hospital Board, with the exception of Greenhill Hostel which is still a voluntary Institution for the care of unmarried mothers and under Diocesan administration.

### SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA.

**Water.**—The sources of water as detailed in the Report for 1933 are still in use and constitute the main supply, with an additional supply from the Birmingham Elan Aqueduct, the minimum agreed supply to be 8,000,000 galls. per annum. To connect up the latter, three miles of 9in. main were laid to our service reservoir with four direct connections along its route into the town distribution.

The water supply to the area has been satisfactory in quality and quantity. Regular bacteriological examination of the raw water is made weekly. Chlorination is permanently carried out, and its efficacy checked by bacteriological examination of tap samples from various points in the town. The results of examination has always shown the water to be fit for use.

As the local well-water supply is hard (average total hardness about 21) and the subsidiary Elan supply is specially treated at its source, the question of plumbo-solvency does not arise.

#### TABLE OF ANALYSIS OF SAMPLES DURING 1952.

(a) the raw water.	Bacteriological	No. 30.	Results Satisfactory
	Chemical	No. 32.	Results Satisfactory
(b) water going into supply where treatment is installed	Bacteriological	No. 31.	Results Satisfactory
	Chemical	No. 31.	Results Satisfactory
(c) Supply from Wells.	Bacteriological	No. 2.	Results Satisfactory
	Chemical	No. 2.	Results Satisfactory

### Housing, 1952.

Number of Houses built by Private Enterprise	...	...	21
Number of Prefabricated Houses (temporary, etc.)	...	...	Nil
Number of Permanent Houses built by Local Authority			70
Number of non-traditional houses	...	...	42

The Housing Officer provided the following report :

The total number of Corporation houses in the Borough at 31st December, 1952, was **1,917**.

The total number of applicants on the housing waiting list at 1st January, 1952, was **1,653**.

The total number of applicants on the housing waiting list at 31st December, 1952, was **1,861**.

The total number of houses completed and occupied during 1952, was **112**, as follows :

**Traditional :**

2 Bedroom...	...	...	...	...	18
3 Bedroom...	...	...	...	...	50
4 Bedroom...	...	...	...	...	2

**Non-traditional :**

3 Bedroom...	...	...	...	...	30
Maisonettes	...	...	...	...	12

---

112

---

The weekly inclusive rents for Corporation dwellings ranged between approximately 7/- for a pre-war Aged Persons' Bungalow to approximately 32/- for a five bedroom post-war house.

A female housing welfare officer was appointed during the year and commenced her duties in August.

The actual increase in population, not considering immigration, was 261 in 1952. Houses condemned as unfit must still be used because there is no alternative accommodation for their inhabitants.

The necessity to build many more houses as quickly as possible, is outstanding in this Borough. The moral, mental and physical state of many families is being damaged because there are insufficient good houses available.

### **PREVALENCE OF, AND CONTROL OVER INFECTIOUS DISEASES, 1952.**

Of the usual notifiable diseases there was no great incident except that more cases of Measles occurred than was expected (509 cases).

#### **NOTIFIABLE DISEASES (other than Tuberculosis) during the year 1952.**

<i>Disease</i>	<i>Total Cases Notified</i>	<i>Admitted to Hospital</i>	<i>Totals Deaths</i>
Scarlet Fever ... ..	23	9	Nil
Puerperal Pyrexia ... ..	10	4	Nil
Pneumonia ... ..	22	—	21
Mumps ... ..	4	—	Nil
Erysipelas ... ..	3	2	Nil
Whooping Cough ... ..	41	2	1
Measles ... ..	509	4	Nil
Sonne Dysentery ... ..	3	2	Nil
Food Poisoning ... ..	13	Not confirmed	Nil
Ophthalmia Neonatorum ...	1	—	Nil



*Diphtheria.*

No cases occurred, but one carrier was discovered, and eventually became free from diphtheria germs.

453 immunisations were completed.

There are still some parents who are too prejudiced, too ignorant or too apathetic to have their children protected against this dangerous disease.

**Table showing Incidence and Mortality of Diphtheria.**

Year	Total Cases	Deaths	Mortality rate	Immunised Children.	
				Cases	Deaths
1942	9	—	—	—	—
1943	9	—	—	—	—
1944	8	—	—	—	—
1945	13	1	—	—	—
1946	11	1	9.0	—	—
1947	2	—	—	—	—
1948	—	—	—	—	—
1949	2	—	—	—	—
1950	—	—	—	—	—
1951	—	—	—	—	—
1952	—	—	—	—	—
	54	2	—	—	—

*Paratyphoid Fever.*

One case of paratyphoid fever occurring in a baby led to the discovery of two adult carriers, one of whom worked in a shop purveying groceries. Both these adults must have been carriers for ten or more years past. All necessary precautions were immediately taken, and the person serving in the shop has agreed not to continue handling food for sale.

**Food Poisoning.**

Two outbreaks of Food Poisoning occurred both of them in Kidderminster Schools.

The first outbreak during the hot weather in May, was in the scholars of the Sladen Secondary School, where 70 girls and 10 boys admitted to feeling ill at the time.

The symptoms were of sudden onset and consisted of nausea, headache, vomiting, shivering, abdominal discomfort, diarrhoea and rise of temperature, and were of a few days duration. The incubation period was about 24 hours.

Infected cream in doughnuts consumed at school was suspected of causing the illness. Laboratory investigation showed staphylococcus pyogenes in the nose of a cream filler at the bakery whence came the doughnuts, and the cream bag used for filling the doughnuts was shown to be heavily contaminated. The sale of



doughnuts containing cream in the school has been discontinued, the cream filler has left the bakery, and a more satisfactory method of sterilizing the cream bag is now employed.

The second outbreak of Food Poisoning which occurred in October was much more extensive than the earlier one, and involved at least 300 children, attending ten Kidderminster Schools.

The symptoms were abdominal discomfort culminating in sickness and diarrhoea. The onset was sudden and the disturbance lasted about 24 hours in the majority of cases.

Much investigation indicated that contaminated stock used in preparing a certain batch of dinners at one of the School Kitchens was the probable cause of this outbreak.

This is the first time that anything untoward has occurred during the nine years this Kitchen has been in operation, and it is only due to a very unusual set of circumstances that this accident happened.

During both these outbreaks the Education Department, the Kidderminster Borough Health Department and the Public Health Laboratory Service at Worcester gave every help in both elucidating the cause and preventing a recurrence of the trouble.

### TUBERCULOSIS.

There were 24 new cases of Tuberculosis notified in 1952 :—  
23 Pulmonary Tuberculosis and 1 Non-Pulmonary.

These figures are not large, but since Tuberculosis is in the category of Preventable diseases, they are too large.

The following table shows the number of notified cases and deaths during the last five years :—

<i>Year</i>	<i>Pulmonary</i>		<i>Non-Pulmonary</i>		<i>Death-rate (all forms) per 1,000 living</i>
	<i>New Cases</i>	<i>Deaths</i>	<i>New Cases</i>	<i>Deaths</i>	
1948	24	15	3	3	.48
1949	22	14	6	1	.39
1950	34	16	1	2	.47
1951	29	7	1	2	.24
1952	23	7	1	1	.07

### DISINFESTATION AND DISINFECTION.

Sterilisation of blankets was carried out at the Blakebrook County Hospital.

Disinfestation and disinfection was undertaken by the Health Department, on account of the following :—

Diphtheria	...	...	...	...	...	—
Tuberculosis	...	...	...	...	...	4 cases.
Cancer	...	...	...	...	...	1 case.
Bugs	...	...	...	...	...	36 cases.
Flies	...	...	...	...	...	9 cases.
Fleas	...	...	...	...	...	12 cases.

### *Catering Establishments and Flies.*

The Health Department has tried to eliminate flies from food shops, cafes, hotels and other places where food is handled or exposed. The use of D.D.T. has been demonstrated and explained to the owners of such establishments.

### *Food Preparation.*

In spite of radio, press and other propaganda there is still very much carelessness and ignorance shown in the handling of food, both in the homes and in public places.

The adoption in May, 1950, by the Borough Council of Byelaws, for the Handling, Wrapping and Delivery of Food and Sale of Food in the open air, should help to improve the handling of food.

The Health Department is constantly demonstrating, explaining, urging and even threatening in an endeavour to improve the town's catering. The danger lies in apathy and ignorance of the principles of hygiene, often very elementary, but so often neglected.

### *Health Education.*

This is one of the most important functions of the Health Service and is shared by the sanitary inspectors, the school teachers and medical staffs.

Discussions on health subjects have taken place between the Medical Officer and the following groups :

- Caterers.
- Young Wives' Group.
- Ladies' Circle.
- Toc H Ladies' Group.
- Salvation Army Group.

Health talks have been given to senior girls about to leave school, and individual advice and guidance have constantly been offered by every member of the health department.

The following subjects have received special attention :

- Food Hygiene.
- Safe Milk.
- Vermin and personal hygiene.
- Safety in the Homes.
- Footwear.
- Immunisation.

The talks have frequently been illustrated with film strips projected by the apparatus belonging to the Health Department.



# Report of the Chief Sanitary Inspector

FOR THE YEAR 1952.

MR. CHAIRMAN, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

I have much pleasure in submitting the Annual Report of the work accomplished by my Department for the year ended 31st December, 1952.

## Meat and Food Inspection.

The duties of Meat Inspection at the Regional Slaughterhouse, Lion Square, have again been rigorously pursued during the year.

Set out below is a synopsis of the work for the year 1952.

### CARCASES INSPECTED AND CONDEMNED.

	Cattle exclud'g Cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs
Number killed ... ..	2258	1121	1030	11446	1434
Number inspected ... ..	2258	1121	1030	11446	1434
ALL DISEASES EXCEPT TUBERCULOSIS: Whole carcasses condemned ...	8	28	61	99	42
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned ... ..	645	398	3	1811	75
Percentage of number inspected affected with disease other than Tuberculosis ... ..	28.9	38	6.2	16.7	8.2
TUBERCULOSIS ONLY: Whole carcasses condemned ...	10	23	1	—	4
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned ... ..	148	131	1	—	37
Percentage of number inspected affected with Tuberculosis ...	7	13.7	.19	—	2.9

**MEAT AND EDIBLE OFFALS CONDEMNED DURING 1952.**

							Tons	Cwts.	lbs.
Tuberculosis ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	13	10	65
Cirrhosis, Distomatosis	...	...	...	...	...	...	4	15	35
Johnes Disease, Emaciation, Dropsy	...	...	...	...	...	...	3	18	96
Injury	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	14	71
Moribund, badly bled	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	12	52
Physiological Poorness	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	8	63
Pyogenic Abscesses	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	5	2
Bone Taint	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	4	2
Septic Metritis, Peritonitis	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	3	0
Septic Mastitis	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	1	51
Parasitic Cysts	...	...	...	...	...	...		17	108
Emaciation, Dropsy	...	...	...	...	...	...		16	62
Angiomatosis	...	...	...	...	...	...		16	52
Strongylosis	...	...	...	...	...	...		12	18
Pleurisy	...	...	...	...	...	...		11	86
Swine Erysipelas	...	...	...	...	...	...		8	35
Blackquarter and Septicaemia	...	...	...	...	...	...		6	75
Parturition, Internal Haemorrhage	...	...	...	...	...	...		6	73
Hydated Cysts	...	...	...	...	...	...		5	16
Septic Pericarditis	...	...	...	...	...	...		4	51
Immaturity	...	...	...	...	...	...		2	94
Jaundice	...	...	...	...	...	...		2	94
Enteritis, Dropsy	...	...	...	...	...	...		2	62
Lymphadenitis	...	...	...	...	...	...		2	50
Septic Pneumonia	...	...	...	...	...	...		2	22
Septic Pleurisy	...	...	...	...	...	...		2	22
Urticaria, Dropsy	...	...	...	...	...	...		1	62
Septic Enteritis	...	...	...	...	...	...		1	32
Pleurisy, Pericarditis	...	...	...	...	...	...		1	10
Actinomycosis	...	...	...	...	...	...			93
Pneumonia	...	...	...	...	...	...			72
Distomatosis	...	...	...	...	...	...			65
Abdominal Rupture, Dropsy	...	...	...	...	...	...			60
Congestion	...	...	...	...	...	...			52
Inflammatory Conditions	...	...	...	...	...	...			32
Emphysema	...	...	...	...	...	...			27
Melanosis	...	...	...	...	...	...			27
Hydraemia	...	...	...	...	...	...			26
Fatty Infiltration	...	...	...	...	...	...			24
<b>Total Weight Condemned</b>							38	3	35

**OTHER FOODS CONDEMNED.**

2919 Tins of various Foodstuffs.	4 lbs. Toasted Marshmallows.
963 lbs. Cooked and Tinned Ham.	456 Eggs.
334 Pkts. Processed Cheese.	30 lbs. Cheese.
352 Bottles and Jars of various Foodstuffs.	9 lbs. Coconut Marshmallows.
19 lbs. Ham.	42 lbs. Bacon.
107 lbs. Sausages.	31 lbs. Flour
11 lbs. Black Puddings.	10 Boxes Dates.
35 lbs. Butter.	8 Table Jellies.
10 Fish Cakes.	7lbs. Pressed Meat.
120 Chocolate Rolls.	1 gall. Synthetic Cream.
30 lbs. Raisins.	

**SUMMARY.**

	Tons	Cwts.	Lbs.
<b>Grand Total Weight (Meat and Foods) Condemned</b>	38	17	91
<b>Grand Total Weight (Meat) Condemned</b>	38	3	35
<b>Grand Total Weight (Tuberculosis) Condemned</b>	13	10	65

## SUMMARY OF MEAT AND FOOD INSPECTION (9 YEARS).

1944—1945—1946—1947—1948—1949—1950—1951—1952

Number of Animals Slaughtered.					Amount of Meat Condemned					
Year	Cattle	Sheep	Pigs	Calves	Weight of Meat and Offal Rejected			Weight Amount Affected with Tuberculosis		
					T.	C.	Q.	T.	C.	Q.
1944	2886	12690	145	966	27	8	1	12	16	1
1945	3246	8613	489	1037	38	4	0	18	4	1
1946	4510	12231	189	1433	46	7	2	21	9	2
1947	2939	7657	116	1211	43	1	0	19	4	1
1948	2725	7503	125	1462	36	13	3	17	15	1
1949	2817	9534	227	1703	55	8	2	23	19	2
1950	3446	8953	92	1398	61	14	0	27	2	1
1951	4001	9750	607	722	45	18	1	19	8	3
1952	3379	11446	1434	1030	38	3	1	13	10	2

## REMARKS.

These premises were taken over by the Ministry of Food in January, 1940, to serve Kidderminster Borough and four adjoining districts. Previously the premises were used by the local Co-operative Society solely to serve their own shops.

As a result of improvements carried out in the last two years, the general standard of the premises has been raised accordingly.

It must not be lost sight of, however, that these premises, during the peak period of kill are still to be regarded as inadequate and their present use was occasioned by the exigency of war. They were intended for this use during the interim period of the outbreak of war in 1939 to the advent of some future policy of wholesale meat slaughtering and distribution. We hope that sometime in the future our borough may boast of a new, adequate and modern abattoir.

No food is rejected unless there is definite evidence that it is unfit for HUMAN CONSUMPTION.

No food is destroyed but is disposed of to the Waste Product Merchants (contractors to the Ministry of Food) for Animal Foods or Industrial purposes.



**FOOD AND DRUGS ACT, 1938.**  
**PUBLIC HEALTH (PRESERVATIVES, ETC., IN FOOD)**  
**REGULATIONS 1925 to 1939.**  
**CLEAN FOOD BYE-LAWS.**

Total Number of Samples taken during the year 1952 ... 116

Milk 60, Milk (Channel Island) 3, Pork Sausages, 14, Beef Sausages 11, Ice Cream 18, Liquorice Novelty 1, Coconut Macaroons 1, Sugared Coconut 1, Mints 2, Filling Cream 2, Cream Cake 1, Pineapple Juice 2.

**Action taken regarding samples not genuine.**

Sample No.	Sample of	Result, Action, Etc.
144	Milk (Informal)	Repeat Sample genuine.
162	" "	Genuine on basis of "Appeal to Cow."
172	" "	"Follow up" samples of No. 162.
173	" "	
176	" (Formal)	
177	" "	Genuine on basis of "Appeal to Cow."
178	" "	

Nos. 230 and 231—Sausages. Contained excess preservative. Manufacturer interviewed.

**BACTERIOLOGICAL EXAMINATION OF MILK.**

Sample	No. Taken	Methylene Blue Test		Turbidity Test		No. did Not Satisfy Phosphatase Test
		No. satisfied Test	No. did not satisfy Test	No. satisfied Test	No. did not satisfy Test	
<b>Designated Milk</b>						
T.T. ...	11	11	—	—	—	—
Accredited	1	1	—	—	—	—
Pasteurised	24	24	—	—	—	1
T.T. Past.	5	5	—	—	—	—
Sterilised	14	—	—	14	—	—
Non-Designated	3	2	1	—	—	—
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>58</b>	<b>43</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>—</b>	<b>1</b>

**MILK—BIOLOGICAL EXAMINATION (For Tubercle Bacilli).**

Nature						No. Sub-mitted	Satisfactory	Unsatisfactory
Ungraded	...	...	...	...	...	2	2	0

**DETAILS OF MILK DISTRIBUTED.**

No. of Distributors (excluding shops selling sterilized milk only) 33

**No. of Licences Issued.**

T.T.Milk	(a) Bottling 4.	(b) Distribution 10
T.T. (Pasteurised) Milk	(a) Bottling 1.	(b) Distribution 2.
Accredited Milk	(a) Bottling 1.	(b) Distribution Nil
Pasteurising Plants 2.	Retail Distributors 11.	
Sterilising Processing Plant 1.	Retail Distributors 52.	

**ICE-CREAM (HEAT TREATMENT) REGULATIONS 1947.****Ice-Cream.**

The operation of the Ice-Cream (Heat Treatment) Regulations has resulted in the taking of routine samples of Ice-Cream manufactured and retailed in the Borough. The tables below show satisfactory results.

**No. of Registrations for the Manufacture, Storage or Sale of Ice-Cream.**

Manufacturers (Heat Treatment ... ..	1
„ (Complete cold-mix only) ...	6
Premises (other than above) where bulk ice-cream is sold ...	13
Premises where wrapped ice-cream only is sold ... ..	97
„ „ „ „ and bulk is sold ... ..	18

**1. Ice Cream—Chemical Analysis.**

No. Submitted	Satisfactory	Unsatisfactory
18	18	—

**2. Ice Cream—Bacteriological Examination.**

No. Submitted	GRADES			
	1	2	3	4
15	12	3	Nil	Nil
Percentages ... ..	80%	20%	Nil	Nil

The results for 1952 were very satisfactory.

### **Clean Food Campaign.**

The campaign for cleaner food was again pursued during the year. Much of the "Spade-work" in this connection was done during the previous year (1951) which culminated in the Clean Food Exhibition in May of that year. With this in mind the work done in 1952 was more of a routine nature, although the early part of the year saw the completion of the inspection of all licensed houses in the Borough and a comprehensive report was submitted to the Licensing Justices and to the Public Health Committee.

Having due regard to the important role that education plays in this effort, we have continued with Film-strip lectures to operatives and others in the Food Trade.

It is gratifying to find that traders as a whole show co-operation and courtesy and welcome advice; even so, it is to be regretted that instances still occasionally arise where the Department's attention is drawn to contraries found in bread and cakes, the principle articles of offence being cigarette ends, nails and beetles.

The swabbing of catering utensils was carried out to a limited degree.

### **Common Lodging Houses.**

We have now only three of these houses left in the Borough which are regularly inspected and disinfested if necessary.

### **Offensive Trades.**

The following list of establishments gives those trades which are scheduled in this area as offensive trades.

Fish Friers	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	22
Gut Scraper	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Tripe Boilers	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2
Hide and Skin Trades		...	...	...	...	...	...	1

### **Disinfestation of Premises, Clothing, etc.**

The work of disinfestation is carried out by the Local Authority mainly combating the more common house pests, viz: bed bugs, fleas, cockroaches, etc.

It is usual to spray infested premises, furniture and other fittings with an insecticide containing D.D.T. Where possible such fittings as picture rails, skirting boards, architraves and wallpapers are removed, so as to facilitate the work.

Number of Houses disinfested by Local Authority 57.



**SUMMARY OF SANITARY INSPECTIONS DURING THE YEAR**  
(excluding Housing)

Various Complaints ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	72
Infectious Diseases	...	...	...	...	...	...	9
Factories ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	15
Public Abattoir	...	...	...	...	...	Approx.	520
Dairies, etc. ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	10
Food Shops	...	...	...	...	...	...	40
Cafes, Canteens	...	...	...	...	...	...	50
Ice-Cream ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	31
Sugar Boiler ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Bakehouses	...	...	...	...	...	...	20
Markets ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	20
Greengrocers	...	...	...	...	...	...	3
Mobile Van ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Crisp Factory	...	...	...	...	...	...	4
Common Lodging Houses ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	3
Offensive Trades ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	30
Water Samples (Private Well)	...	...	...	...	...	...	2
Theatres ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	9
Licensed Houses	...	...	...	...	...	...	93

**1.—INSPECTION OF DWELLING HOUSES DURING THE YEAR:—**

- (1) (a) Total number of Dwelling Houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts) ... 347
- (b) Number of inspections made for the purpose ... 530
  
- (2) (a) Number of dwelling houses (included under sub-head (1) above, which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidated Regulations, 1925 and 1932 ... Nil
- (b) Number of inspections made for the purpose... Nil
  
- (3) Number of dwelling houses found to be in such a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation ... 7
  
- (4) Number of dwelling houses (exclusive of those referred to under sub-head above) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation 203

**2.—REMEDY OF DEFECTS DURING THE YEAR WITHOUT THE SERVICE OF FORMAL NOTICES:—**

Number of defective dwelling houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their Officers ... 222

### 3.—ACTION UNDER STATUTORY POWERS DURING THE YEAR:—

Proceedings under the Public Health Acts:—

(1) Number of dwelling houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied ... ..	58
(2) Number of dwelling houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notice:—	
(a) By owners ... ..	54
(b) By Local Authority in default of owners	4

#### Summary of Notices Served.

Preliminary notices served (for housing defects) ... ..	186
Intimation letters sent ( <i>re</i> sanitary defects) ... ..	117
Statutory notices served (for housing defects) ... ..	37
Reminder Notices served (for housing defects) ... ..	3

#### PUBLIC CLEANSING (Salvage and Refuse Collection and Disposal)

	£	s.	d.
*The cost of collection and disposal of refuse, salvage and kitchen waste for the year 1952 was ...	26,482	0	0
*The Income was ... ..	8,837	0	0
	<hr/>		
The net cost being	17,645	0	0
	<hr/>		

*\*Financial Year ended 31st March, 1953*

#### SALVAGE.

The total WEIGHT of all Salvaged Materials collected and disposed of during the Twelve Months amounted to 1182 TONS of PAPER, METALS, RAGS, BONES, KITCHEN WASTE, etc. etc., the INCOME from the Materials disposed of being £10,021.

Total number of loads taken to Main Salvage Depots 2,177

#### KITCHEN WASTE.

Collected and disposed of for sterilised Pig and Poultry Food.  
Weight: 332 tons, 5 cwts., 0qr.



## RECORD OF SALVAGE FOR THE YEAR 1952

Month					Weight of Salvage			Income from Sale		
					Tons	Cwts.	Qrs.	£	s.	d.
January	...	...	...	...	98	5	2	1179	17	9
February	...	...	...	...	95	10	1	1172	0	7
March	...	...	...	...	98	18	3	1134	9	9
April	...	...	...	...	93	1	2	912	9	0
May	...	...	...	...	110	1	2	795	5	0
June	...	...	...	...	90	16	2	678	19	2
July	...	...	...	...	96	16	3	662	7	11
August	...	...	...	...	75	9	1	5 727	5	8
September	...	...	...	...	95	5	3	688	11	0
October	...	...	...	...	124	9	1	837	12	7
November	...	...	...	...	109	12	3	785	17	11
December	...	...	...	...	93	6	1	646	13	7
TOTALS					1181	14	0	£10,021	9	11

The weights of the salvaged materials have been segregated and are set out below.

Materials					Tons	Cwts.	Qrs.	£	s.	d.
Waste Paper	...	...	...	...	548	12	3	5851	0	3
Heavy Scrap	...	...	...	...	25	4	3	164	0	1
Baled Tins	...	...	...	...	108	2	0	475	4	1
Light Scrap	...	...	...	...	36	16	1	123	11	8
Textiles	...	...	...	...	24	14	1	561	8	7
Household Bones	...	...	...	...	1	2	2	6	10	3
Cullet (Broken Glass)	...	...	...	...	85	17	0	205	14	11
Bottles and Jars	...	...	...	...	18	2	3	137	17	3
Aluminium	...	...	...	...	—	16	3	73	2	6
Miscellaneous	...	...	...	...	—	—	—	64	9	6
Kitchen Waste	...	...	...	...	332	5	0	2358	10	10
TOTALS					1181	14	0	10,021	9	11

## COLLECTION OF DOMESTIC AND TRADE REFUSE.

Total No. of loads of Refuse removed (all vehicles)	...	...	...	...	6945
Closet Pans emptied	...	...	...	...	3610
Loads of Night Soil removed	...	...	...	...	53
<b>Disposal of Household Ashes.</b>					
Tipped at Broadwaters	...	...	...	...	Nil
Tipped at Puxton	...	...	...	...	Nil
Tipped at Hoobrook	...	...	...	...	4328
Tipped at Worcester Road	...	...	...	...	440
Total	...	...	...	...	4768

## RODENT CONTROL.

The relatively low level of infestation in the Borough continued, and was maintained by routine surveys of business premises and residential areas, monthly treatment of the Department yards and tips, twice yearly treatment of the sewers, and the contract service to an increased number of business premises.

The Department has continued to receive excellent co-operation and help from the Infestation Division of the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries and its Officers.

TREATMENTS.

									No. Treated
Corporation Properties	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	15
Corporation Sewer Manholes	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	244
Private Houses	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	213
Individual business premises on Contract	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	49
Other business premises not under Contract	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	22
Block control schemes carried out									116.

RAINFALL.

Years 1951 and 1952								
Monthly		Inches		Rainfall for past Ten Years				
January	...	2.87	2.01	1943	...	...	...	23.43
February	...	2.61	.44	1944	...	...	...	24.50
March	...	4.61	1.79	1945	...	...	...	20.45
April	...	2.00	1.87	1946	...	...	...	31.80
May	...	2.98	1.78	1947	...	...	...	23.41
June	...	1.03	2.02	1948	...	...	...	27.62
July	...	.98	.55	1949	...	...	...	19.46
August	...	3.92	3.37	1950	...	...	...	22.66
September	...	3.06	1.26	1951	...	...	...	32.57
October	...	.56	3.00	1952	...	...	...	22.58
November	...	6.24	1.98					
December	...	1.71	2.51					
Total	...	32.57	22.58	Average	...	...	...	24.84

MORTUARY.

During the year 25 bodies were received into the Public Mortuary.

CONCLUSION.

The year has been an extremely busy one, and the good progress of the Department has been well maintained.

I wish to express my indebtedness to Mr. J. B. Hinton and the staff for their continued co-operation and loyal service.

I am, Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Yours obediently,

G. A. NORTH,  
Chief Sanitary Inspector.

TO THE CHAIRMAN, VICE-CHAIRMAN AND  
MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC HEALTH COMMITTEE.





